GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:246
ANSWERED ON:06.07.2004
SANITATION CONDITION IN METRO CITIES
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that civic bodies of big metro cities have failed in upkeeping the sanitation condition in metro cities inspite of Supreme Court`s guidelines issued in this regard in the year 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(c): Since, sanitation is a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies, including civic bodies of big metro cities to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain sanitation schemes in their respective urban areas.

The task of managing sanitation schemes in metro cities has been challenging in the wake of rapid urbanization, inadequate resources, lack of scientific disposal system, trained man-power and public apathy towards cleanliness. A public interest Writ Petition No. 888/96 was filed by Mrs. Almitra H. Patel against Union of India and all State Governments in the Hon`ble Supreme Court in 1996 to address the problem of proper solid waste management in the country. The Hon`ble Supreme Court after holding several hearings had constituted a Committee on 16.1.98 for suggesting improvements in solid waste management practices in Class-I cities in the country. The committee had submitted its report on 25.3.99, which was circulated by the Ministry to all State Governments, as directed by the Hon`ble Supreme Court, for their information & comments. The matter is still subjudice.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Supreme Court appointed Committee, a Technology Advisory Group on Solid Waste Management was constituted by this Ministry to evaluate and recommend appropriate technologies, human resource development, community participation and other areas of Solid Waste Management. The first report of the TAG is under publication. A comprehensive Manual on `Municipal Solid Waste Management` was prepared by an Expert Committee constituted by this Ministry and published in May,2000. It was circulated to all State Governments for information & guidance. Ministry of Environment & Forests had notified the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000 for compliance by State Governments and all urban local bodies. Ministry of Urban Development has requested the 12th Finance Commission to consider to allocate adequate resources for proper solid waste management in 417 Class-I towns, including metro cities.

Pursuant to directions of the Hon`ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No.888/96 mentioned above, this Ministry has set up an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on 23.3.03 to prepare a policy, strategy and action plan for promoting Integrated Plant Nutrient Management (IPNM) using city compost alongwith synthetic fertilizers in agriculture, horticulture, plantation crops, forestry, etc.